

Fran Pavley

Assemblymember, 41st District

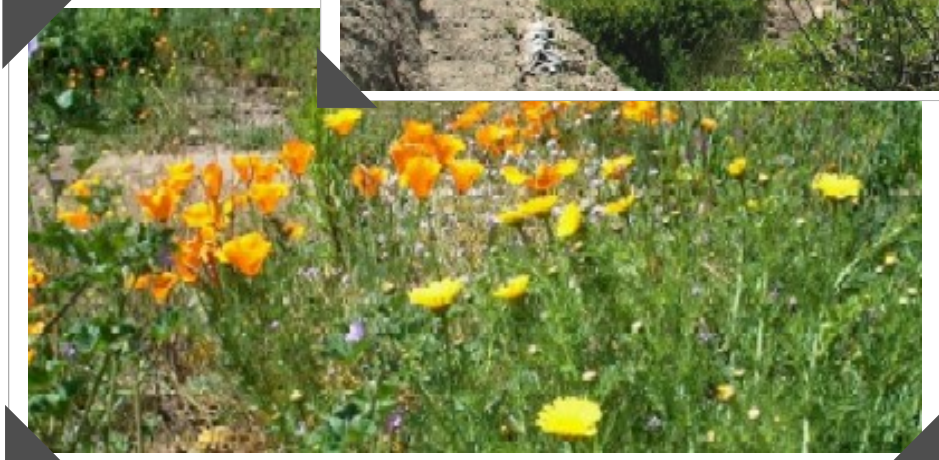
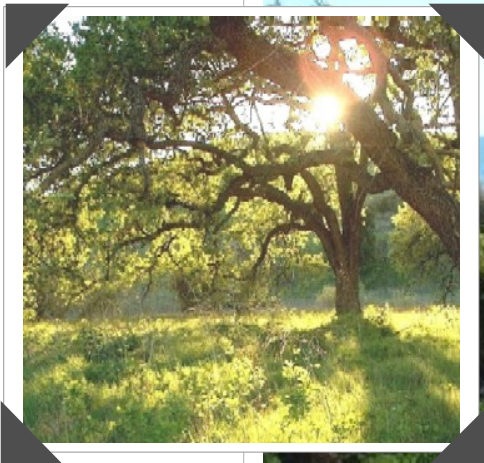


NEWS

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades,
Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

APRIL 2006 ISSUE

"Earth Month" in the 41st AD



10 Easy Things You Can do for the Earth

1. Change just a couple light bulbs to energy-efficient ones
2. Save energy - turn down water heater temperature and furnace thermostats
3. Consider a hybrid vehicle for your next car
4. Bring reusable bags when you market
5. Reduce the use of pesticides and other toxic garden chemicals
6. Recycle used ink cartridges at office supply stores
7. Donate, don't toss - ex., books to the library, electronics to Goodwill or other e-waste recycling centers
8. Compost green waste, even if just in a small patch of garden
9. Replace energy-wasting home appliances and take advantage of rebates your utility providers offer
10. Think about your "footprint" on the environment when you make all your choices



Will Rogers State Historic Park Reopens

On March 25, the original ranch house of actor/cowboy/humorist Will Rogers was formally reopened following a three-year restoration effort, made possible in large part by voter-approved bond funding.



Rogers died in 1935, and in 1944, his wife Betty, generously deeded the ranch and surrounding 186 acres to the state of California as a memorial to Will and for the public to enjoy.

This beautiful sprawling State Park is located off Sunset Blvd. in Pacific Palisades, and includes barns and work buildings, stables that held his polo and roping horses and boarded horses in the 1932 Olympic equestrian events, gardens, and the polo field where Rogers played with Clark Gable and other early Hollywood celebrities.

We owe special thanks to local historian, Randy Young, and to the Rogers family for spearheading the restoration efforts, and also to California State Parks for completing this first and very significant piece of

the restoration. Down the line, the grounds will be returned to what they looked like when Rogers lived there and other details will be completed. The nonprofit Will Rogers Ranch Foundation is being formed to generate revenue for these further projects and for park maintenance costs.

LNG Hearings Continue to Raise Resident Ire

BHP Billiton, the Australian corporate giant that hopes to put a floating regasification platform offshore between Malibu and Oxnard, continues to face strong resident resistance. Comments and concerns that were not fully addressed last year required that the environmental documents be recirculated. Hearings were held on the new documents and findings in Malibu and Oxnard last week. At both hearings, hundreds of residents came to express their strong objections and fears about the untested technology that is being proposed, and to siting of the experimental facility offshore from two such populated and environmentally fragile coastal communities.

I have additional concerns about the pre-emption by the Federal government of local control over the siting of these facilities. Natural gas is without question a clean fuel that is already in common use in most homes in California. The technology of the BHP proposal is unique, however, and unproven. And I believe that the long-term answer to our energy needs should not be reliant on the importation of more foreign fossil fuel, but in more sustainable and renewable energy sources, and conservation most of all, which many experts believe can more than equal the amount of LNG that BHP would like to sell us.

State Senator Joe Simitian is carrying a bill right now, SB 426, of which I am a principal co-author, that would require the state Energy Commission to evaluate and rank every proposed LNG terminal. It would also require the Governor to disapprove an application for a license to construct and operate an LNG terminal unless the site is one of the two highest ranked sites and uses technology that will "minimize adverse public health, safety, and environmental impacts."

I am also concerned that the negative cumulative impact on our air quality and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets from all the associated ships, boats, and operations have not been addressed.

The next public hearing on this project will be on May 23 in Oxnard when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency takes testimony on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit that BHP would be required to get as a discharger into the ocean. The State Lands Commission could be voting to certify the Final EIR/EIS on the project in late summer, after which the project would still need approval from the California Coastal Commission - probably before the end of the year.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

On Monday, April 24, over 80 Holocaust survivors attended a solemn ceremony on the Assembly floor in the Capitol, commencing *Yom Hashoah*. I've proudly participated in this annual event since it was initiated by Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn several years ago.

In addition to the floor ceremony, a wonderful historic primary source account of the lives of each of these survivors is assembled as a way to preserve the stories and experiences of these special Californians. The life stories are primarily written by students who interview survivors, and the collection of essays has been included in the libraries of the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, in Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, and at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

This year Malibu High School student, Emmanuelle Stahler, interviewed **Rita Lurie**, who I selected from the 41st AD. Her story includes her family's experience hiding in an attic in Poland and their journey to America. The essay collection from all 80 Assembly Districts will be available soon on Assemblymember Cohn's website. Watch for it in the next few weeks at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a24>.

We must take the time to recommit ourselves to the teaching of tolerance
in our schools and our society. Could the Holocaust happen again?
Will we quietly stand by and turn our backs on the genocide taking place in Darfur?
"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."
-George Santayana

I'm deeply grateful to Rita Lurie for being willing to share her story, and also to Emmanuelle for participating in this emotional project. Thanks to Leslie Gilbert-Lurie for recommending her mother, Rita, and for her assistance; to Malibu High School Principal Mark Kelly, Administrative Assistant Nedra Gray, and teacher Adam Panish for providing classroom space and facilitating the interview. Thanks also to Robin Squier in my District Office for pulling this all together.

Take Your Own Tour of the Westside of the 41st

My Sacramento staff was in town earlier this month. This is something that I try to do at the beginning of each year to be sure that the District Office's focus on constituent service and the Capitol Office's legislative priorities are coordinated, and that we are all communicating clearly in order to be as effective as possible.

I decided to take them on a whirlwind tour of some points of interest in the district, starting in Santa Monica at the **Natural Resources Defense Council's headquarters** (1314 Second Street). Built in 2003, it is at the forefront of green building design in the U.S., conserving water and energy, using recycled materials, and acting as a showcase for a wide range of environmentally-friendly materials and principles. They love showing it off when the public comes by.

They also made their roof-top conference room available for us to have a short meeting with **Santa Monica City Councilmember Richard Bloom** and city staff to update us on city activities. Santa Monica is one of the model cities nationally for sustainable practices. Their goal over the

next 15 years is to become a “net electricity exporter,” by using things like solar to export energy to the grid, and which will also reduce greenhouse gases and lower energy bills for everyone. They believe that they can achieve a 38% reduction over the next 15 years by efficiencies alone.

From the NRDC, we walked over to the Pier and spent some time at the **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium**. Located at beach-level just below the Pier’s carousel, this is a marine science gem managed by Heal the Bay that functions as an environmental education center. It features the animals and habitats found right there in the Santa Monica Bay. If you’re lucky, as we were, you may even arrive at feeding time for the sharks. The Aquarium is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.



The next day, we visited the newly-opened and restored **Getty Villa** in Pacific Palisades (17985 Pacific Coast Highway). This beautiful classical-style museum featuring the Getty antiquities collection overlooks the ocean, and is an architectural treasure in itself. No admission cost and only a nominal parking fee. Advance timed-tickets are required and may be obtained through their website at www.getty.edu/visit.



After lunch at the beach, we spent some time at the historic **Adamson House** in Malibu, at Malibu Lagoon State Beach, which is now owned and operated by California State Parks. In addition to the Adamson family’s place in the history of the area, the house also incorporates some of the finest examples of the work of the famous Malibu Tile Company in the form of intricate tile “carpets” and throughout the home. Call (310) 456-8432 to arrange a tour.

We finished our tour at the **King Gillette Ranch** on Malibu Canyon Road at Mulholland Highway. With Soka University continuing as a tenant until the end of 2007, these 588 magnificent acres are now jointly owned by several park agencies and open to the public.

Any of these would make a wonderful afternoon, and I recommend them all to you. Plus you don’t have to leave the 41st Assembly District to do any of them.

When Mother Nature Strikes ... Are You Insured?

And if you have insurance, do you fully understand what will be covered, and what will have to come out of your own wallet? We've all seen the headlines over the past year. Fires, floods, windstorms, tidal waves. And too often, denials of coverage that the victims of disaster were certain they had. Here are a few tips to help protect yourself.

- If you live anywhere near an area prone to flooding, buy Federal flood insurance.
- Buy "replacement cost" or you may find yourself well short of what you have to pay to cover the damage, and review the amount of coverage you have on a regular basis.
- Be sure your agent and company are fully licensed. Check the California Department of Insurance website at www.insurance.ca.gov.
- Read your policies carefully. It will be well worth the time it take to be sure that your policy meets what you actually need and your budget.

The Candy Jar

I "shop locally" as much as I can, and love having the chance to recognize small businesses in particular. The Candy Jar has been serving Agoura Hills' residents for 25 years in the same shopping



center - longer than the city has been in existence. Yolanda, the owner, moved to the U.S. from Cuba, and has put both of her children through graduate school so they too can live the dream. Her son worked at the United Nations for a time, moving back to the district right after September 11, in part to assuage his mother's fears for his safety.

Support your local businesses. And you're likely to meet wonderful people like Yolanda, with their own stories to tell.

Bits 'n' Pieces

Westside "Expo Rail" Receives Funding

On March 16, the California Transportation Commission approved the allocation of \$208 million in Traffic Congestion Relief Program funding for the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project. This will be a major source of funding for this important project that will be another piece of the state-of-the-art transit system that Southern California needs.

California Wildlife Center Dedicates New Care Unit

California Wildlife Center (CWC) is a wonderful facility in the Santa Monica Mountains that provides compassionate and high-quality medical and rehabilitative care for more than 2,000 wild creatures every year. On April 23, they dedicated a state-of-the-art new building that will enable them to separate recovering animals and orphaned babies from critically ill animals. And they announced their new Executive Director, Glenda Singer.

CWC does remarkable work, and has provided care to 10,000 sick, injured or orphaned wild animals since 1998. In 2005 they cared for 99 hummingbirds, 240 squirrels, 10 fawns, 20 pelicans, 73 hawks, six coyotes, two bobcats, six Black Crowned Night Herons, and 180 opossums. To find out more about the California Wildlife Center, including items you can donate to help their animals, visit their website at www.californiawildlifecenter.org. If you find a sick or injured animal, call CWC at (818) 591-9453, or their Hotline (310) 458-WILD.



District School Children Come to the Capitol

Especially as a former school teacher, I love it when children from the District visit our beautiful State Capitol. This month it was two classes of fourth graders, with parents and teachers, from the Carlthorp School in Santa Monica. Carlthorp students live in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, and other nearby communities. I arranged for them to come into the Assembly Chamber to experience first hand where so many laws are enacted.



Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Budget Committee
Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality
Select Committee on Runaway Production
Select Committee on Ports
Select Committee on Title IX
Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security

Legislative Advisory Committee - Wildlife Conservation Board
Legislative Advisory Committee - California Coastal Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board
Member, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Member, Commission on the Status of Women

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